GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:175
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2001
IMPLEMENTATION OF FOREST POLICY
VISHNU DATT

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest forest policy of the Union Government is being implemented well all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor indicating the instances where the Forest land, National Parks land, Sanctuary land have been used for non-forestry purposes with area used in each category during 1994-95 to 1998-99, State-wise; and (

(d) the action taken against the defaulter States?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) Yes Sir. National Forest Policy of India was revised in the year1988 and in line with it, the National Forestry Action Programme has been formulated for implementation to increase the forest/tree cover to 33% of the geographical area of the country.

(b) The important basic objectives that govern the National Forest Policy are:

i. Maintenance of environmental stability through preservation and, where necessary, restoration of the ecological balance that has been adversely disturbed by serious depletion of the forests of the country.

ii. Conserving the natural heritage of the country by preserving the remaining natural forests with the vast variety of flora and fauna, which represent the remarkable biological diversity and genetic resources of the country.

iii. Checking soil erosion and denudation in the catchment areas of the rivers, lakes, reservoirs in the interest of the soil and water conservation, for mitigating floods and droughts and for the retardation of siltation of reservoirs.

(c) & (d) The information is being collected from different States of the country. On receipt of the information, it shall be laid on the Table of the House.